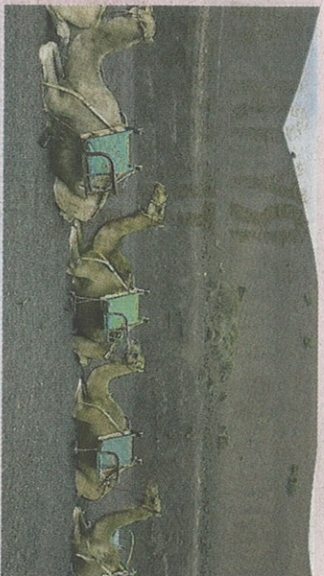


FEATURES



TOP SPOT: The quiet side of Lanzarote

Darragh Maloney presents *Sport at 7* on RTE Radio 1 weekdays at 7pm.

What was your best holiday ever? Playa Blanca in Lanzarote a few years ago. We rented a villa just outside the town and it was fantastic. It was lovely and private and the villa had a swimming pool outside the back patio door which was bliss. It is a nice quiet part of the island but it is becoming more popular every year as people discover there is life outside Puerto del Carmen.

Where did you holiday as a child? We used to spend every summer in Clontarf/Cough Co Offaly, where my granny lives.

What is your favourite holiday food? I don't think I have a favourite food. If you are travelling in Europe, the food is pretty similar at this stage.

Where would you never go again? Tunisia. We went there in 1997 just as it was becoming a popular holiday destination. The hotel was 5-star and was lovely with its own private beach, but you could not really go outside the complex. Once you ventured out, you were set upon by locals trying to sell you something or bring you somewhere and it was no fun at all.

Where did you go this year? I did not go abroad this year at all but we did

MY HOLS

by Emily Byne

Darragh Maloney



ONCE BITTEN: Tunisia

get away for a week to Lough Rynn in Co Leitrim. It is a beautiful place and I would love to go back there someday.

Who did you go with? My wife Louise and daughters Kate and Hannah.

Where would you like to go before you die? I think I would like to go back to Australia. I was lucky enough to be there in 2000 for the Olympics, but we were working all the time and I never really had the chance to have a proper look around.

Do you have any holiday tips? No tips at all. Just enjoy every second of it.

NEVER thought it could snow in a desert. So imagine my astonishment when I awoke in the Navajo Desert in Utah, and saw snow gently falling outside my window. I felt blessed to have witnessed it and have been boasting about it since.

My visit to Utah also corrected another misconception. Thelma and Louise didn't drive off into the Grand Canyon close to Las Vegas — that was in Utah too. The state has offered beautiful backdrops to many other Hollywood films such as *Mission Impossible III*, the recent *Race To Witch Mountain*, and a host of westerns.

It's in the heart of the American west, and has everything to offer to guests, from the rugged explorer to the young family looking for a holiday with a difference. It combines both desert and alpine zones, and is divided into three major landscapes: Basin and Range, the Middle Rocky Mountains and the Colorado Plateau.

AUTOMOBILE

You will get a warm welcome from Utah's predominantly Mormon population — and what they have to show does not disappoint. We travelled the length and breadth of the state in less than a week, thanks to a superb road network which is testament to America's love of the automobile.

Our first stop was to the Anelope Island State Park. With sandy white beaches, it has over 35kms of hiking and biking trails with some fantastic views of the Great Salt Lake.

Later, we drove some 385 miles to Arches National Park. The park features delicate

You might expect to find cowboys out in the cinematographic landscapes of Utah state, but **Jane Last** was surprised to find the desert covered in a coat of snow



NATURAL WONDERS: Jane in Canyonlands National Park

natural sandstone arches and impossibly balanced rocks, and it's not long before you are snapping away with your camera.

But the thing about Utah is that in each park or area you visit, geological wonders and sweeping landscapes will blow you away in equal measure.

We visited the city of Moab, which is located in the south-east. It is regarded to the gateway to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. Dead Horse Point State Park, the Colorado

River and the La Sal Mountains. Arches is about five miles away from Moab — a very welcoming city with delightful eateries and micro-breweries as well as top accommodation.

Gasps could be heard the following day as our party made its way to Canyonlands National Park. This is home to a colourful landscape eroded into countless canyons, mesas and buttes by the Colorado River and its tributaries. One of the highlights of this

visit was the trip to Dead Horse State Park — now this is where Thelma and Louise drove off. Our final stop for that day was Goosenecks State Park — yes another amazing geological formation that took some 300 million years to create.

MONUMENT

It really is hard for me to pick out one highlight — but my stay in Goulding's Lodge in Monument Valley was very special. Monument Valley, in the Navajo Desert, has provided the backdrop for countless Hollywood films, from *Stagecoach* starring John Wayne onwards — and it was thanks to Harry and 'Mike' Goulding, who travelled to Tinseltown in 1937 by horse and cart and set up camp in director John Ford's offices until they convinced him of Monument Valley's worth.

Apart from the comfortable accommodation they have here, there is also a museum housed in the original trading post and home of the Gouldings.

The couple were lifelong friends of the Navajo people, many of whom survived the Depression by working on movies. The Navajo are still involved in the running of Gouldings now.

The museum has preserved much of the Gouldings' home

Herald reader offer

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ay out west



SADDLE UP: Jane Last grabs a stetson and heads for the hills

Fact File

How to get there

Aer Lingus fly to O'Hare International Airport, Chicago. JFK in New York, and Logan in Boston. Check www.aerlingus.com for further information. United Airlines and JetBlue fly to Salt Lake City.

Where to stay

Salt Lake City: La Quinta Inn & Suites. Call 001 801 776 6700. Moab: Best Western Canyonlands Inn. Call 001 435 259 2300. Monument Valley: Goulding's Lodge. Call 001 435 727 3231. Capitol Reef (Wayne County) Rim Rock Inn. Call 001 435 425 3388. Bryce Canyon National Park: Ruby's Inn. Call 001 435 834 5341. Zion National Park: Cable Mountain Lodge. Call 001 435 772 3366. Salt Lake City: Hyatt Summerfield Suites. Tel: 001 801 304 5705. Check out the website: www.utah.travel

and also houses a wonderful collection of movie-making memorabilia as well as Indian artifacts.

The night we stayed in Gouldings, our welcoming host said we would find the area quite special when we toured it. He was right. When I got up early the next morning, I saw that it was snowing in the desert, a sight that will stay with me forever.

DONES

Capitol Reef National Park was next on our schedule. Interestingly, the park got its name from early explorers because its massive white sandstone domes resemble the US Capitol. Twisting canyons as well as beautiful orchards feature here.

We stopped at Bryce Canyon National Park where I hiked the Navajo Loop. I'm afraid I decided to take the harder route

— and my feeble efforts (*The Simpsons'* Montgomery Burns springs to mind) have ensured that I go to the gym regularly ever since.

The name Bryce Canyon can be a little misleading — the park is more of a series of impressive red rock amphitheatres and towering spires and hoodoos.

I have to give a special mention to Ruby's Inn — after my hike, I was never in more need of a comfy bed and great food. Ruby's didn't disappoint. We were also treated to a wonderful Night Skies presentation.

Our final stop was Zion National Park — one of the oldest and most visited outdoor attractions in Utah. It has plenty of hiking trails, for walking and horse-riding as well as beautiful scenery.

We also managed to take in Kolob Canyon for a quick 40-minute hike — I was

learning by now.

Other places we took in included the College of Eastern Utah Museum, a prehistory museum just a stone's throw from some of the world's richest archaeological, paleontological and geological wonders.

ARCHITECTURE

The Edge of Cedars of State Park Museum justified another visit as it contains the remains of the Ancestral Pueblo Indian village with its unique architecture.

On our last day, we visited the Museum of the Ancients — an interactive dinosaur museum. It's simply a must for all dino-lovers out there.

We also took in a quick visit to the Sundance Resort, owned by Hollywood legend Robert Redford. While I was hoping to bump into Mr. Redford himself, I was happy to content

myself with the beautiful meal and a quick drink in the specially recreated pub. It contains the same bar where the real-life Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid were held up.

Apparently, Redford bought the bar, shipped it to Park City (where the resort is located) and restored it.

Redford's love affair with Utah began when he filmed the classic movie with Paul Newman, and led to him establishing the resort, which also hosts the Sundance Film Festival.

Looking at the snowy surroundings and breathtaking landscape, it's easy to see why Redford stayed. Just hope I catch him the next time...

Jane Last was a guest of the Utah Office of Tourism. Special thanks to Patti Denny

SHORT CUTS: TRAVEL NEWS IN BRIEF

BREAK DEALS

IT'S NOW time to start thinking about the mid-term break — and getting away from the classroom.

Selfcatering.ie has a number of villa offers, including Salinas De Vera, Almeria, Spain. This two-bedroom apartment is available from October 24-31 for just €250 for four people or €8 per person night.

At home, Sneem River House is a newly completed

six-bedroom house, north of Kenmare Bay, catering for up to twelve people. A week's stay from October 24-31 will cost €850, €10 per person per night.

For further details www.selfcatering.ie or call 1850 200 236.

TREAT TIME

BEAUTIFUL Lisloughrey Lodge in Co Mayo has great deals for families including a

Halloween night package.

Lisloughrey are offering a family suite for four, plus dinner in SALT for the parents (babysitter provided while you enjoy a grown-ups' dinner). Kiddies Club from 5-6.30pm plus Trick or Treat in the hotel and dinner for the kids.

All this for €155 per adult and kids go free. See www.lisloughrey.ie call 094 954 5400 or email: lodge@lisloughrey.ie

LAST MINUTE

Departing October 21 2009, Sunway has some late deals to Orlando. Prices are for a family of two adults and two children (under 12) and include flights, 7 nights' accommodation and all taxes and charges. Choice includes the 2-star Quality Inn International from €1,786. See www.sunway.ie

Contact Travel Editor Mark Evans on 01 705 5706 or email mevans@herald.ie



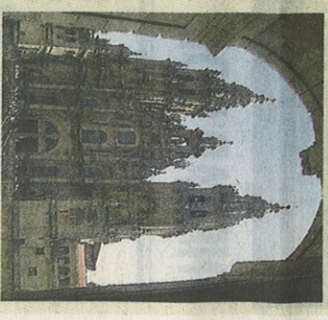
DIARY OF A TRAVEL WRITER
EOGHAN CORRY

Kerry constrictors, badminton birdies and hooting owls

THURSDAY: We are heading into the mountains. The Pardor Hotel Group, founded in 1928, has 92 hotels in some of Spain's most spectacular castles, convents, palaces, monasteries and even a former prison. We are travelling to stay in one of them, a restored monastery about an hour south of Santiago. Pardor de Santo Estevo is one of the most beautiful places I have ever stayed. It comes complete with a sense of Gregorian grandeur, cloisters, baroque church architecture and an owl that hoots through my open window. You are afraid you might have a sinful dream in a place like this.

FRIDAY: At Santa Cristina de Ribas de Sil there is even an offerings tree. It could belong to an ancient Irish holy well, the ones where people leave their bandages after they have been cured.

Here, beside St Fructosus's monastery, the faithful had deposited a cornucopia of offerings: a centre-fold from a girls' magazine, a badminton birdie, photographs of loved ones, sex kitten cards, enough cigarettes to give God and his angels lung cancer, beads, dedication notes requesting intercessions, coins, chocolates, chewing gum, a Metro map, a playbill for a musical and pens, lots of pens. Oh lord, teach me to write for the *Herald*. Prayer answered.



SATURDAY: I am back in Santiago de Compostelo for the midday Mass. My friend from the Dublin Clareman's Association, Martin Corry (no relation) died on the Camino earlier this week, not far from St Jean Pied de Ports. What a place to go.

END OF THE ROAD:

Santiago de Compostelo

SUNDAY: In the zoo in Ho Chi Minh City, lunch is sent into the snakes' enclosure alive. When I was there last month you could watch a boa constrictor strangle a rabbit as part of your educational experience. Reminds me of the Cork football team in the All Ireland final.

MONDAY: Listen to a radio show on the disappearing flights. Two weeks out the airlines can cancel flights that aren't filling. They give you your money back but that's no use if you have booked a car and hotel.

TUESDAY: In the Gresham Hotel in Dublin for lunch and the sun is shining. Dublin can indeed be heaven.

WEDNESDAY: Back in the airport for flight AF5003 to Paris at 6.20am. Air France were there to tell us about premium economy on their New York. First class is on death row since the demise of the FAS expense account. Seat pitch is an ungenerous 38 inches, but you can set this seat back 123 degrees and it doesn't tip over the wine of the guy behind you. You also get 85 movies for the €1,038 return you pay. Less air rage and more space. I like the French way of doing things.

>>>KEEP READING

Sharon Shannon talks to Eamon Carr about love, loss and her new album. Pages 52, 53



**I'M SICK OF
WIMPY MEN**
COLETTE'S
HILARIOUS
COLUMN
SEE PAGE 39



**IS IT ALL
OVER FOR
WOMEN
AFTER 30?**
SEE PAGES 40-41



LEINSTER RUGBY
'I'M DYING TO GET BACK'
LUKE FITZGERALD AND THE LEINSTER LIONS RETURN
PLUS: READ MILLER AND JACKMAN PAGES 77-85



GRIEVING:
Olympic
Boxer's
father Tony

DARREN'S SAD SCRIBAMMO ATMIE

By Cormac Byrne



DARREN Sutherland's manager Frank Maloney said today he is shocked at his treatment over the death of the boxer.

The respected boxing promoter revealed that Darren's father rang him following the tragic suicide last week and accused him of not giving Darren proper attention.

Mr. Maloney said that it was "wrong" to put any blame on him or his team. He told of the moments after Darren's death when Tony Sutherland rang him, obviously upset at the death of his only son.

"He was shouting and screaming at me, accusing me of things," Maloney said today. "I don't think he was blaming me at that time. He was just shouting and screaming down the phone about how he gave me his son's trust, how he

TURN TO PAGE FOUR



TEAM: Frank Maloney and boxer Darren



**IS THIS THE
END FOR
HANNAH
MONTANA?**

NEW PLANS: Miley Cyrus - pictured in diva mode at a music bash - says that she wants darker roles, and reveals what this means for her pop creation, Hannah Montana

FIND OUT ON PAGE 36

**Give €1m back
Government
tells FAS boss**

By Kevin Doyle
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government is to go after ex-FAS chief Rody Molloy's €1m pension top-up.

The *Herald* can reveal that some managers at FAS "deliberately withheld" information from its board members, leading to Molloy's golden handshake.

Ministers now believe that they have a legal way of reclaiming the money as they were not fully informed when the deal was signed.

Tánaiste Mary Coughlan today announced a legal review of the situation aimed at pulling the plug on Molloy's cashflow. He was given the boosted retirement package late last year in order to hasten his departure.

His €100,000-a-year pension was increased by €11,000-a-year, while a series of other hefty compensation payments were made.

TURN TO PAGE FOUR

MUSIC TEACHER (49) GROPED STUDENT (13) PAGE 2



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